

# Building Interfaith America Grants

## Leveraging Interfaith Skills to Increase Civic Cooperation

At Interfaith America, we believe that U.S. religious diversity is a strength; when we engage that diversity proactively, we can address the major challenges of our communities and our nation. Yet, engaging across deep differences is work that requires interfaith leadership skills and resources. As this country continues to strive to realize our potential and promise – a nation in which each is invited to contribute their best and to participate in the daily work of democracy – we need everyone to contribute.

In his new book, [We Need to Build](#), Eboo Patel writes,

We will know we have achieved Interfaith America when it is simply commonplace for cities across the country to have days of interfaith service; when there is an established scholarly field called interfaith studies that certifies tens of thousands of people every year who have the knowledge base and skill set of interfaith leadership; when companies, schools, hospitals, and civil society organizations hire interfaith leaders because they recognize the significance of proactively engaging the religious diversity within their organizations; when houses of worship regularly have partnerships across faith lines; when people across traditions can readily articulate the theology or ethic of interfaith cooperation of their own community... [Most importantly, when religious diversity is understood as a powerful and visible asset that ought to be engaged positively and proactively rather than a dynamic that is either invisible or a threat.](#) (Patel, 21)

The Building Interfaith America grants are an invitation to our network to consider your community's strengths, identify a need or opportunity in your community, propose a project to address it, and leverage the strength of interfaith cooperation to achieve your aspiration.

### Program Overview

Grants are being offered to [campus educators](#) (faculty, staff, and administrators) to implement courses, programs, and/or initiatives that leverage religious, spiritual, and faith communities to address an evidenced need or opportunity in the classroom, campus, workplace, and wider community. Below are specific examples, requirements, and deliverables for the grants for the 2022-2023 Academic Year. Through both grants, we at Interfaith America are committed to providing quarterly cohort calls and one on one support calls as needed.



## Co-curricular Project

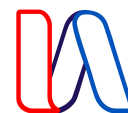
Co-curricular grants are \$5,000 with up to \$2000 eligible as a stipend to a staff member, student, or community partner. These grant recipients will use the funding to address an identified need or opportunity in the campus or broader community through an interfaith lens.

- Examples include but are not limited to:
  - Working with community partners to address a need in the community (e.g., loneliness and mental health crisis; learning loss from the pandemic; addressing barriers to health equity; increasing access to expressed needs)
  - Training campus faculty, staff, and/or students on interfaith leadership skills to address an evidenced need (e.g., increase student religious diversity and retention; foster collaborations on a campus that becomes highly polarized at cultural flashpoints; opportunity to modify orientation, housing or food policies and offerings)
  - Implementing a program on the intersections of race and religion (e.g., religious and racial literacy campaigns; campus dialogue efforts; Get Out the Vote efforts; service and civic engagement opportunities with religious literacy training; leadership retreat focused on religious and racial diversity and belonging)
- Eligibility: This funding is reserved for 2 and 4-year college and university faculty, staff, and administrators employed by the college or university. Students or community partners who may want to receive funding must partner with a campus staff member.
- Deliverable: Final report or Interfaith America article outlining learnings and impact.

## Curricular Approaches

Curricular grants are \$5,000 with up to \$2,000 eligible as a stipend to a faculty member. These grant recipients will use the funding to create or update a course or curricular opportunity to meet the needs of the campus or community or to increase interfaith literacy and cooperation in various courses.

- Examples include but are not limited to:
  - Updating first year experience courses to address interfaith cooperation or increase religious and worldview literacy.
  - Creating modules to be used in multiple courses across campus.
  - Creating or redesigning a course to integrate interfaith cooperation in a pre-professional course.
- Eligibility: Faculty (including contingent, adjunct, contract, and part-time), staff, and administrators at two- and four-year colleges and universities within the United States are eligible to apply. Students or community partners who may want to receive funding must partner with a campus staff member named above.
- Deliverable: Final syllabus and/or description of the curricular work along with any student or community evaluations.



## Program Timeline

- **May 10- June 17, 2022:** Application period is open.
- **July 18, 2022:** Grantees will be notified of their selection.
- **December 15, 2022:** Grantees will provide a progress report on their projects.
- **June 15, 2023:** Deadline for final reports, which will include an assessment of program impact as well as commitment to next steps in the field of interfaith cooperation.

For further information, please contact Rachel Kline ([rachel@ifyc.org](mailto:rachel@ifyc.org)).